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BOOK REVIEWS

THE CHRIST OF THE MEN OF ART.

BY J. R. AITKEN. With frontispiece in colour, twenty reproductions in photogravure and twenty-eight in half-tone. T. & T. Clarke, Edinburgh, and Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, Publishers.

Concerning itself chiefly with masterpieces in which Christ is pictured, this book goes to show that while this subject as no other constitutes an artist's supreme test of greatness, the actual accomplishment falls far short of the ideal. This is the more impressive when it is noted that the men of art in every land have thus paid their tribute to the Master. Their interpretations and conceptions of the life and character of Christ receive however, interesting explanation and are well illustrated in Mr. Aitken's book. Sacred art of the early centuries is first dealt with, then follows a chapter on Byzantine Art, describing the beautiful mosaic-work representing Christ. There are four chapters which treat of the works of the great Italian masters, while the deeply religious art of Spain forms a chapter in itself. Next is given an account of the Christ-pictures by Flemish, Dutch, German and French painters, and finally the most noteworthy religious pictures in modern art are described, the book closing with a chapter entitled "The Christ of British Art."

SKETCHES BY SAMUEL PROUT, IN FRANCE, BELGIUM, GERMANY, ITALY AND SWITZERLAND.

EDITED BY CHARLES HOLME, TEXT BY ERNEST G. HALTON. A special number of the Studio, John Lane Company, New York and London, Publishers. Price $3.00 net.

Samuel Prout was, it will be remembered, both a contemporary and friend of Ruskin, who vastly admired his skillful and artistic rendering of architectural themes. In this volume, now published by the John Lane Company as a special number of the International Studio, are gathered together and admirably reproduced thirty-two of this artist's drawings. An appreciative introduction in the way of bibliography and critical essay on Prout and his work is contributed by Ernest G. Halton. There is a frontispiece in color. Architects as well as other artists will find this volume of special interest. To the traveler too, it will have a special attraction, presenting in new guise many interesting and familiar scenes.

CALIFORNIA AND THE FAR WEST.

BY K. E. M. DUMBELL. James Pott & Co., New York, Publishers. Price 75 cents.

While not a book about art, this little volume, of handy pocket size, will be found of interest and help to artists and others who make a pilgrimage to the Far West, to observe the art of the California expositions and the stupendous beauties of nature which lie between our two great bordering oceans. It gives just the information a traveler most desires, having been written by one who in traversing the continent felt the need and generously was prompted to supply it for others. It is not historical, but definite and concise—really informing.

THE NEED FOR ART IN LIFE.

BY J. B. STOUGHTON HOLBORN. G. Arnold Shaw, New York, Publisher. Price 75 cents net.

This little book contains several lectures given by this well-known English lecturer. They are thoughtful and delightful essays of a very scholarly and yet pertinent order. In them the reader is led back to the great epochs in our Western civilization—Greece, the Middle Ages and the Renaissance—and shown in a way he will not forget the part that beauty and art play in life. Mr. Holborn's approach to his subject is very individual, and his treatment clear and engaging. We commend this little volume most heartily to all of our readers.

HALSEY COOLEY IVES, L.L.D.

Biographical sketch and Memorial Address edited by Walter B. Stevens. The Ives Memorial Association, St. Louis, Publishers.

Professor Halsey Cooley Ives was Director of Fine Arts of the Columbian Exposition held in Chicago, and of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition held in St. Louis. He also founded the St. Louis School of Fine Arts and was first director of the City Art Museum of St. Louis; in fact, Professor Ives played a prominent part in the development of Art in America. Therefore, the tribute which this little volume pays to his memory is altogether appropriate. Such service should not be forgotten.